

381 to be reinstated in government posts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has ordered the immediate reinstatement of 381 employees in government positions and instructed the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to make arrangements for their reappointment in their posts within two months.

A statement issued Monday said that the Cabinet had approved the reappointment of persons who were dismissed from their jobs for political reasons or whose appointment was disregarded or did not acquire former approval. All the 381 persons to be given jobs in government departments carry university degrees or diplomas from community colleges, according to the statement.

The CSC published the names of the persons to be appointed and requested them to call at its offices Wednesday and Thursday to finalise procedures before commencing their work.

The CSC said four of these persons would be appointed at the Department of Statistics, 12 at the Radio and Television Corporation, six at Jordanian Posts Corporation, two at the Department of Lands and Survey, 24 at the Telecommunications Corporation, three at the Passports and Civil Status Department, five at the Audit Bureau, 13 at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, six at the Ministry of Supply, seven at the Ministry of Agriculture, six at the Health Ministry, 49 at the Ministry of Education, three at the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications, 35 at the Ministry of Public Works, one at the Postal Services Corporation, three at the Jordan Valley Authority, four at the Ministry of Justice, 31 at the Ministry of Higher Education, five at the Civil Aviation Authority, two at the Ministry of Industry and

Trade, six at the Ministry of Awqaf, three at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, three at the Ministry of Culture, eight at the Natural Resources Authority, five at the Vocational Training Corporation, four at the Jordan News Agency, one at the Industrial Development Bank, two at the Ministry of Labour, three at the Agaba Railways Corporation, eight at the Ministry of Finance, one at the Urban Development Department and 64 at the Ministry of Health, six at the Ministry of Social Development, two at the Department of Palestinian Affairs, one at the Cities and Villages Bank, three at the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, 15 at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, three at the Ministry of Interior, three at the Income Tax Department, 17 at the Jordan Electricity Authority and two at the Ministry of Information.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told Parliament last December that the government was committed to reinstating persons dismissed from their jobs or denied the chance to be employed because of political reasons.

He said that the government had issued a clear statement in January 1990 to reinstate these persons, but the CSC received only 544 applications out of a total of nearly 1,000. However, he said, 372 have already been reinstated and the rest will be appointed in due time once they apply for jobs at the CSC which takes charge of appointments at government offices.

The reinstatement of the dismissed employees came about as a result of strong lobbying for their case at the Lower House of Parliament following the 1989 general elections.

Parliament later entrusted its committee on Public Freedoms and Citizens Rights to follow up the case with the government.

ICRC sends 600 tonnes of relief supplies to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is Tuesday sending 33 trucks laden with approximately 600 tonnes of relief supplies to Iraq. A statement here said that the trucks contained medicines, food and fuel and were accompanied by an ICRC official from the Amman office.

In making the announcement the ICRC said it intended to provide at least one relief convoy per week to help improve the sanitation and health situation in Baghdad and other cities of Iraq. "This action has to be accomplished very fast in order to try to avoid the worsening of the situation," said the statement.

It is feared that the situation could deteriorate rapidly when the temperatures rise in the coming weeks, the statement added.

According to the statement, the ICRC sent its first relief convoy to Iraq on March 4 following an agreement with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and in response to the needs assessed by ICRC delegates visiting the Iraqi capital.

The shipment of medicine, diesel oil, medical and sanitation

equipment, electric generators and spare parts as well as food, especially for children and women, were taken to Iraq by 14 ICRC delegates, according to the statement.

The statement said that on March 10 a second, and much larger convoy was sent to Iraq with 100 tonnes of food, 40 tonnes of medicines, 15 tonnes of fuel, one complete field hospital, and two water purification lines with their generator.

The head of ICRC delegation in Amman, whose office is organising these shipments, met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday and received the Jordanian government's backing for the Red Cross's humanitarian endeavours.

Mr. Badran said that the government would do all in its power to facilitate the arrival of these shipments to the Iraqi people.

The head of the ICRC delegation, Werner Kaspar, said that he feared an outbreak of epidemics because the allied bombing had damaged Iraq's sewage and water facilities. For this reason, he said, ICRC is giving priority to health issues under these crucial circumstances.

House to discuss laws

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament is to hold a session Wednesday to bear a report by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri on the current situation in the region and Jordan's political moves on the Arab and international scenes.

The Parliament session, which is to be attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members, will bear government replies to queries about a number of issues raised by deputies and will bear the deputies' views concerning amendments to Jordanian law regarding permission of citizens to carry arms and matters

concerning the Radio and Television Corporation.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the House will also discuss the enactment of a law banning Freemasonry in Jordan and will discuss a number of resolutions by the House's legal, administrative and Palestine committees.

The House's Public Freedoms and Citizens Rights Committee held a separate session Monday and discussed the question of persons dismissed from their jobs for political reasons and those detained on similar charges.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Comprehensive book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, Amman.

BAZAAR

★ Charity bazaar at Nuseibeh Islamic Cultural Centre, Zarqa. ★ Charity bazaar at the women's Islamic Cultural Centre, Karak.

LECTURE

★ Lecture by Dr. Ma'ayish Ibrahim entitled "The International Campaign for the Excavations at Tawara — Capital of the South Arabian Kingdom of Qatnah" at the Goethe Institute — 7:30 p.m.



MASRI, HOGG HOLD TALKS: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri met Monday with visiting British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg to discuss Middle East issues and the Palestine question. Mr. Masri presented Jordan's views and demanded the implementation of the international legitimacy and the U.N. Security

JNRCS, Libyan Red Crescent send relief supplies to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Monday sent its 16th convoy of trucks with relief supplies to Baghdad and said representatives of six humanitarian organisations accompanied the mission.

In addition to these, the Libyan Red Crescent Society Monday sent 33 tonnes of milk to Baghdad to be distributed in conjunction with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Representatives of the foreign humanitarian organisations held a meeting with the JNRCS vice president, Dr. Mohammad Al Hadid, to discuss various needs of the Iraqi people under the present circumstances. The delegates, who represent Oxfam, the British and American chapter of Save the Children Organisation, the Tunisian Social Development Organisation and the

donated by the Jordanian people continued to reach Iraq. In Tafleb it was announced Monday that the first convoy of six trucks laden with 40 tonnes of food supplies were on their way to Baghdad, and in South Shimeb, near the Dead Sea, it was announced that 28 tonnes of food supplies were sent Monday to Iraq.

In Amman, the Arab Emergency Health Committee said that it had sent yet another consignment of food supplies and medicines to the Iraqi people.

In Salt, Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Monday that the staff of Al Hussein hospital had raised JD 2,765 in donations to the Iraqi people and three trucks, laden with food, were sent to Baghdad by the local branch of the People's Committee for Supporting the Iraqi People.

Al Bashir Hospital facilities expanded

By Elthar Khasawneh
Petra

AMMAN — The coming few days will witness the commencement of work on expanding and improving facilities at Al Bashir government Hospital in Amman in the light of a plan recently approved by the Health Ministry, according to hospital Director Yousef Mustafa Issa.

Work has already been completed on a building to serve as a major centre for emergency and first aid services; it has been constructed in a manner to accommodate at least 112 extra beds, said Dr. Issa.

France

(Continued from page 1)
Palestinians have the right for an independent state.

Mr. Fernandez Ordóñez denied reports that his talk in Egypt will cover Spain's possible write off of part or all of Cairo's \$1.3 billion debt to Madrid for military purchases in the mid-80s.

Hogg

(Continued from page 1)
the problems but he did not request and I did not offer any financial assistance."

The British position on the outcome of a Palestinian-Israeli settlement, he said, is based on two principles: Israel's security and self-determination of the Palestinians.

Britain wants to ensure that Israel lives within secure, safe and internationally accepted frontiers and that the Palestinians "do have the right to determine their own political future... and any solution which does not take account both of these propositions is a solution which will not succeed," he said.

Mr. Hogg did not make any mention of a settlement which would involve a land-for-peace settlement or the future of the "occupied" West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Today Hogg leaves for Syria where he is scheduled to meet with the Syrian foreign minister to "explore with them how they

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Olympic Committee is making arrangements for Jordan to take part in the Barcelona Olympics next year. A statement issued at the end of the committee meeting chaired by Minister of Culture and Youth Khaled Karaki said that discussion on financial aspects related to such participation took place at the meeting which also endorsed the committee's budget.

Israel only hours before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was due in the Jewish state.

Three Israeli soldiers were wounded in the dawn clash east of a farm in the Jordan Valley, the radio said.

The alleged attempt came close in the wake of an incident in West Jerusalem in which an Arab man stabbed to death four Israelis.

Cainkar added: "The real de-

fact finding mission presents plan for peace and reconstruction of the Middle East region

Prince Hassan, Japanese political group discuss situation in region

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday met with a visiting group of Japanese politicians representing the Socialist Democratic Party and discussed with them the situation in Jordan and the Gulf region.

The group, now on a tour of the region in the wake of the Gulf war, heard from the Crown Prince about Jordan's views about the Middle East situation and learned about the Kingdom's efforts to reach peace based on justice.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan supported peace and opposed all forms of violence as the Kingdom is peace-oriented and tries to avoid further catastrophes and setbacks.

Crown Prince Hassan spoke in length about Jordan's economic and social difficulties resulting

from the Gulf crisis and reviewed the various developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jordan, he said, is committed to peace based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands. Prince Hassan also stressed the need for the involvement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in all efforts aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the region.

He expressed hope that the recent developments on the regional and international scene would lead to positive arrangements that can ensure and pave the way for peace and security in the Middle East.

For its part, the delegation expressed appreciation of the Jordanian positive stand and explained the Japanese Democratic Socialist Party's views with regard to the Middle East issue. The party, they said, is opposed to all attempts to impose hegemony by

any party and opposed to waging war or aggression to achieve that goal.

The delegation handed Prince Hassan a message from the party leader and a document containing the main principles of a plan for the re-establishment of peace and reconstruction in the Middle East region.

The plan gives the United Nations the main role in settling the Middle East crisis and calls for the creation of an international fund to finance regional development within the framework of new system for security and cooperation.

The Japanese group members are on a fact-finding mission in the region and for discussions with leaders on means of establishing peace and stability in the Middle East.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday receives Japanese Socialist Party delegation pre-

sent on a fact-finding mission in the region (Petra photo)

Peace group determined to bring out facts about the war to the people of U.S.

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Despite the fact that the war in the Gulf is over the actual facts of the conflict should be presented to the American public with as much accuracy as possible — this is the motive behind the visit of the region of a six member peace group.

Dr. Issa said that delivery cases are estimated at nearly 50 a day. In all, he said, the hospital has an occupational capacity of nearly 85 per cent all year round.

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He added that the war in the Gulf is now over we are not going to give up efforts and we are determined to bring out the facts to be presented to the public in the United States with as much accuracy as possible," said Julie Martin, one of the members of the peace group now visiting Jordan.

"We represent an anti-war movement in the United States, and we are interested in the facts, much of which had been concealed from the public thanks to the U.S. Administration," said Mary Teresa Rogers, a member of the group that has already visited the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip but so far failed to reach Iraq in their quest for the truth about the situation in the area.

Another group member, Myra Soifer, said: "The first amendment concerning the freedom of speech was violated under the guise of security, therefore there was heavy censorship of the media in the United States."

Charles Simmons, a black professor of journalism said: "One of the issues that will remain part of the activists' concern is why most of the troops in the frontlines were blacks."

As we meet with the people of Jordan, it is also clear that you have suffered tremendously as a result of this terrible war. We are deeply saddened by the war's economic consequences here and tremendously impressed by the courage and generosity of the Jordanian people who have responded to the influx of refugees and repatriates and to the most desperate medical and food needs of the Iraqi people.

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The stories we are hearing about the effects of the war on Iraq leave us with heavy hearts. As soon as it becomes possible, others from the U.S. Peace Movement would like to visit Baghdad. Our desire is simply to ask for forgiveness and, by listening to and retelling your painful stories in the United States, to resist the evil rooted there and to work for a world that is peaceful and just.

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

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The alleged attempt came close in the wake of an incident in West Jerusalem in which an Arab man stabbed to death four Israelis.

Cainkar added: "The real de-

ception came from the so-called Middle East experts who are known for their biased views and their Arab feelings."

"The American public was appalled by the raid on Al Ameri shelter in Baghdad in which hundreds of innocent children and women were killed, but the incident was soon overshadowed by the news of Iraq's decision to pull out from Kuwait," another member of the group, Julie Martin said.

Martin said: "Saddam Hussein was labelled Hitler in the United States and the war was dubbed as 'super bowl.' While the American weapon manufacturers expressed their overjoy at the war, for some, the psychological factor was very important since a win with subsequent victory for the Americans was needed to offset the effects of the defeat in the Vietnam war."

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Two tongues, old hand

ONLY a few days after U.S. President George Bush made his momentous speech to the U.S. Congress declaring that the time had come to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace, Secretary of State James Baker was caught telling a group of Arab interlocutors in Riyadh Sunday that "time is not appropriate" to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. The logical question that comes to mind in the wake of what might be seen as confusing signals emanating from Washington is whether the U.S. still seeks to speak with two tongues, one to satisfy the Arab countries that formed an integral part of the coalition forces that waged war on Iraq, and the other to appease Israel and its supporters in the U.S. who aided and abetted the war decision taken by the White House.

There is something of a *deja vu* about the recent U.S. pronouncements on the Palestinian problem and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. If Mr. Bush meant what he said to his nation last Wednesday, to the effect that he intended to move quickly towards a lasting peace in this area, then how can one reconcile such a pious pronouncement with Baker's assertion that this is no time to hold a peace forum that almost everybody wants to arrive at the kind of peace that President Bush was talking about. If Mr. Baker has something else in mind to conclude a just and lasting permanent peace than an international conference under the aegis of the Security Council, then he is invited to synchronise with his president and tell the world what kind of forum or mechanism they have in mind to settle the Arab-Israeli crisis expeditiously.

Meanwhile Tel Aviv is putting up one hurdle after the other to frustrate the ongoing euphoria about the need to settle the issue. The Israeli leaders are masters of the game that brings all peace initiatives including those offered by themselves and the U.S. to naught. Mr. Baker is about to conclude his working visit to Israel and undoubtedly will have already been told to cool it. Instead of Resolution 242 and the principle of exchanging land for peace, the Israeli government will have repeated its sterile peace formula that it floated in 1989 and got nowhere with it. Now Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir wants to resurrect that defunct peace offer from death knowing all too well that it is dead and buried. Suffice it to recall that the salient features of the Israeli peace initiative contemplates continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories in return for some form of limited autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. How Messrs. Baker and Bush are going to reconcile such a proposal with the solemn promise of the U.S. president before his congressmen and people that territory must be traded for peace and resolutions 242 and 338 must be implemented in full, we do not really know.

Many Arabs, however, have already expressed scepticism about the fate of the new American pledges about the terms for a comprehensive peace simply on the strength of their experiences with the U.S.: They have heard such promises all too often in the distant and near past but without any avail. They are therefore impatiently waiting to see how Washington is going to react to Israel's renewed rebuff of this new peace effort. How President Bush will decide to deal with the continued Israeli intransigence will determine once and for all the validity of the charge that Washington is an old hand when it comes to applying double standards in this part of the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE DO NOT need more political talk from the Americans about the Middle East because Washington has proved through the past years that these talks constitute a successive series of attempts to deceive and mislead us and to throw lies on us, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. What we need, said the paper, is real action that can give Washington's words some credibility for its talk about the establishment of security, justice and peace in the region. What we want is not mere talk but actual action that can help the Palestinians regain their human rights, said the paper in commenting on George Bush's latest statement about the Middle East and the Palestine problem. The paper noted that the Americans are now advising the Arabs to negotiate with Israel directly without any external interference and to take time in a long dialogue and negotiation for peace, but the Americans preached otherwise when they dealt with the Gulf crisis. In the Gulf crisis, the Americans were quick to send their forces to the Gulf and they were quick to launch an aggression on Iraq to end its occupation of Kuwait that lasted a few months, but they did nothing of the sort with regard to Palestine and have failed to send any troops to evict Israeli forces from the Palestinian land despite the lapse of 24 years of occupation of that land, the paper pointed out.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily believes that Washington is now preaching the Iraqi ideas about dealing with the various issues of the region but in a distorted manner. Fahd Al Funek notes that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has come to the Middle East region upon directives from President Bush who has said that the time has come for the solution of the Palestine problem and equitable distribution of wealth in the region as well as regional security. These are Iraq's ideas presented by a non-Arab power, and in a distorted manner following U.S. aggression on Iraq, he says. The writer notes that Baker's mission comes in the aftermath of the death of 125,000 Iraqis in the Gulf war and the destruction of Iraq's military and economic infrastructures to offer a weak Arab Nation ideas that have little chance of seeing light should America's policies remain unchanged with regard to Israel. The writer says that the United States launched this war on Iraq for the benefit of Israel militarily and economically.

By Dr. Labib Kamhawi

FOR SOME, the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf marked the end of their troubles. For others, that may mark the beginning of problems. For most, however, the political battle has just begun.

The Palestinians never attributed to the post-war era in the Arab World is the uncertainty and general feeling of shock and helplessness which has accompanied its devastating outcome. Many Arabs feel very worried about the confirmation of the USA as the undisputed sole superpower in the world and are, thus, questioning the real motives behind the U.S.-led war in the Gulf.

Until the eruption of hostilities on Jan. 17, the Palestinians sided neither with Iraq nor against Kuwait, but rather with what they believed to be in the interest of their cause. How could the Palestinians refuse the offer of Iraq in its Aug. 12, 1990 initiative which stipulated, among other things, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait if a solution to the Palestine problem on the basis of the U.N. resolutions was to be achieved? This offer must be viewed in the Palestinian context, against a background of immense suffering and desperation that the Palestinians

understanding of the bizarre circumstances engulfing the Palestine problem. The essence of the Palestinian position during the Gulf crisis should be understood against a background which some know about, others do not and many choose to ignore.

The Palestinians never condoned the occupation of Kuwait, let alone its annexation. As may be revealed in the future, strenuous efforts were made by the PLO, among others, to preempt this crisis prior to Aug. 2, 1990, when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, and more so after the invasion, in trying to solve the crisis peacefully and within the Arab fold.

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have lived through over the years.

Prior to Aug. 2, 1990, the Palestinians were forced, once more, into a position of desperation through the evident apathy of the world community towards the suffering of the men, women and children of Palestine, who were forced by the Israeli occupation authorities to pay a daily price of maimed children, mourning mothers and imprisoned fathers. The intifada is the Palestinian version of resistance to occupation, which most of Europe experienced during World War II with a basic difference; the Palestinian intifada uses stones to resist tanks and bullets.

The Palestinians did all they could to oblige the U.S. and Europe. The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) renounced terrorism and accepted and met every condition laid down by the U.S. This resulted in American acceptance to start a "substantive dialogue" with the PLO. Such a dialogue turned out to be a dialogue of the deaf as it was not "substantive" and was limited to the U.S. ambassador in Tunisia. Even that kind of dialogue, the U.S. was not willing to tolerate, and it sought the first excuse to terminate it. This contributed to

damaging, still more, the credibility of the U.S. among the Palestinians in particular, and the Arab people, in general. It was neither constructive nor helpful to create a feeling among the Palestinians that all the concessions they had to give were in vain, and that the commitment of the U.S. to Israel far exceeds any concern for the Palestinians or for their legitimate rights as recognised by the General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as the Security Council.

Moreover, the Palestinians had to cope with fragmented and elusive Arab regimes. Appeasing and pleasing feuding Arab regimes was never an easy undertaking by the PLO who was constantly soliciting the support of all Arab states for a solution to the Palestine problem. In this context, the contribution of many Arab states, especially the oil-producing Arab states, towards the solution of the Palestine problem was limited to some financial contributions and symbolic support. No serious effort was undertaken by such states to use their influence or the means at their disposal to bring about a solution to the Palestine problem. In fact, such states considered their financial contribution as a

means to absolve themselves from any other responsibility towards the Palestinians or to solving the Palestine problem. The Palestinians, who helped build many of the Gulf states and continue to do so, had also to endure an alien status in those states and were constantly reminded of such a status. This had tremendous psychological impact on many Palestinians who are stateless and have nowhere else to go because the Israeli occupation authorities have always denied them a permission to return to their homes and land.

On the eve of the Gulf crisis, the stage was set, therefore, for yet another frantic search by the desperate and angry Palestinians for a just solution to their suffering. The Iraqi initiative of Aug. 12, 1990, proposing to link the solution of the Gulf problem to that of other problems in the area, including the Palestine problem, provided a new home for the desperate Palestinians, and it was, therefore, only logical that they seize this opportunity. Needless to say, the opponents of Iraq in the Gulf crisis were largely responsible for much of the Palestinian frustration.

Now, that the war has en-

The writer is a member of the Popular Committee for the Defence of Jerusalem. He contributed the above article to the *Jordan Times*.

With political battle starting, PLO should be on wagon

By Daoud Kuttab

JERUSALEM — As U.S.

Secretary of State James Baker swings through the Middle East in order to deal with the post-Gulf war problems, it will become more and more evident to him that the Palestinian-Israeli issue is one of the more difficult conflicts that he will have on his hand. Despite the emotions on both sides of this protracted conflict, there is a window of opportunity now that should not be missed. The misses that hit Israel during the war have shaken up Israel and destroyed the theory that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are absolutely necessary for Israel's security. The end of the war has also shaken up the Palestinians who had pinned so much hope on Iraq. If this crucial time is to be effectively used, following are some principles that must be taken into account if Mr. Baker expects political success:

• Dead with the Palestinian issue first: Israel will try to persuade U.S. diplomats that the real problem lies in the Arab

World. Attempts to work out any peace agreement with the Arab World will be futile unless the Palestinian problem is solved. British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd correctly referred to the Palestinian issue as a problem that continues to poison the air. The reason that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was able to touch a sensitive nerve with the Arab and Islamic people with the Palestinian issue was because of the clear injustice that Palestinians suffer from. If the objective is to reach an Arab-Israeli solution then the first step must be to address the Palestinian problem. The Arab World will not agree to deal with/recognise/sign a peace treaty with Israel unless this explosive issue is addressed.

• Avoid wasting time in looking for an alternative leadership to Palestinians: Talking about alternatives to the PLO has become the favourite pastime of politicians and commentators. The PLO acted no differently from what Palestinians wanted

nor any differently from Jordan or half a dozen African Arab countries. The PLO's crime was that it reflected Palestinian sentiments. In fact some Palestinians in the occupied territories feel that the PLO did not do enough in supporting Iraq. They criticised the PLO for not getting involved militarily or in acts of terrorism against western interests. And while the PLO's image has been tarnished in the West, the PLO has never had as much popular Palestinian support as it has now. Even supporters of the Islamic Hamas movement have indicated their satisfaction with the position of the PLO. Finding an alternative to the PLO will not only be useless but it will be ineffective because weak Palestinian representatives that are not credible with their own people will be unable to deliver. Only strong credible leaders can make the concessions needed to solve this thorny issue. And then after all only enemies can make peace and one cannot choose the representatives of one's enemies.

• Deal with difficult issues head on: The Gulf crisis saw the U.S. act powerfully and decisively. But the Iraqi president successfully raised the double standard issue when referring to the way the U.S. acted in enforcing U.N. Security Council resolutions dealing with Iraq compared to its lack of zeal in dealing with other Security Council resolutions. The people of the Middle East will be watching very carefully if the U.S. will act in the same decisiveness in pursuit of peace when the obstacle is not an Arab party. Dealing with issues head on also requires that one should not hide problems under the rug. Problems like the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood, the right of return, demilitarisation and the Golan Heights need to be put on the negotiations table and dealt with firmly and fairly.

• Protagonists must come up with new ideas: For too long both sides of the conflict have avoided

to come up with new and courageous ideas. The West should not impose ideas but should firmly encourage both sides to come up with ideas that can bring about breakthroughs. Whether by elections, nomination dialogue or an international conference Palestinians and Israelis must find appropriate media to start effective peace talks. New ideas can include creativity in the negotiations as well as goodwill gestures. Israel can release political detainees, legitimise the PLO, allow political discourse and allow Palestinian leaders and deportees in exile to return. Palestinians can show flexibility on elections, interim arrangements and demilitarisation.

• When negotiations start, rhetorical and emotional issues should be left outside: If there is a serious attempt to address difficult issues peace architects must be careful not to allow the protagonists to flood the discussions with well-known rhetorical and

emotional issues. Political positions that contain any of the following terms must be seen as obstruction to peace: Zionism, Achavism (Hebrew for PLC), terrorism, holocaust, promised land, pan-Arabism, extremists, moderates, fundamentalists, expansionists, transferists. Similarly, Israeli references to the outdated PLO covenant or Palestinian references to Israeli massacres will not positively contribute to the negotiated process.

Starting a peace process in the Arab-Israeli conflict is possible now if the world community will show the same determination to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories as it did to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This will be the real test of President Bush's new world order.

Daoud Kuttab is a Palestinian journalist living in East Jerusalem. He contributed this article to the *Jordan Times*.

LETTERS

In the name of many Americans

To The Editor:

WE ARE people from the United States Peace Movement who, with millions of other U.S. citizens, vehemently opposed our country's aggressive and inhumane war against Iraq. We have come to the Middle East to learn what the U.S. military censors and the media have not allowed us to know about the effects of this war on people in your lands. We have come to mourn over you over the devastating and unnecessary loss of life and property and the complete disruption of daily life. We have come in the name of many others in the United States who are mourning as well.

Our days in the Gaza Strip, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the West Bank made it clear to us that the war is not over for the Palestinian people. The injustice of occupation was intensified by the curfew. Economic, political, social and cultural oppression in the occupied territories is deeper than ever before. We will go home to insist that our country stop applying a double standard — as we opposed Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait, we must oppose Israel's occupation as well. We will go home to insist that the United States use every means of persuasion at its disposal to move Israel to immediately end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and to negotiate a solution with legitimate representatives chosen by the Palestinian people.

As we meet with the people of Jordan, it is also clear that you have suffered tremendously as a result of this terrible war. We are deeply saddened by the war's economic consequences here and tremendously impressed by the courage and generosity of the Jordanian people who have responded to the influx of refugees and repatriates and to the most desperate medical and food needs of the Iraqi people.

The stories we are bearing about the effects of the war on Iraq leave us with heavy hearts. As soon as it becomes possible, others from the U.S. Peace Movement would like to visit Baghdad. Our desire is simply to ask for forgiveness and, by listening to and retelling your painful stories in the United States, to resist the evil rooted there and to work for a world that is peaceful and just.

Anan Ameri, Mid East Witness and Palestine Aid Society
Arturo Montoya Garcia, Witness for Peace
Marie Dennis Gross, Pax Christi USA
Julia Martes, Santa Cruz Students for Social Responsibility
Rev. Ronald H. McLean, Witness for Peace
Gail Phares, Witness for Peace
Mary Teresa Rogers
Prof. Charles E. Shrimpton, National Alliance of Third World Journalists USA
Rabbi Myra Soifer, Witness for Peace
Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Pax Christi USA
United Church of Christ USA
Witness for Peace

Pan-Arab relations: Future vs. present

By Dr. Maher A. Waked

NOW that the Arab World is on the threshold of a new order, with the old one devastated by the Gulf war, the question is: On what basis should the new order be built?

With the dream of a "united Arab Nation" almost totally shattered by the war and the "Arab Nation" more divided than ever, the only hope, nationalism aside, is to work out an arrangement based on mutual interests and by which Arab funds, resources and peoples are utilised for the benefit of all Arab peoples.

For many years, Arab economists and businessmen advocated the rescheduling of Arab financial resources back to the Arab World to make them available to serve Arab economic development plans. The results of the Gulf war are certain to usher in a new Arab order, one that the Arab countries themselves would formulate and adopt and which is not dictated to them from the outside. This proposed order is liable to reopen the Arabs' eyes to the importance of their region and resources. It is no longer a secret that many Arab oil-producing countries were misusing their oil revenues in ways detrimental to their own as well as to other Arab interests.

It should be noted also that oil revenues play a pivotal role in the gross domestic product in many Arab countries. Figures show that oil accounts for 60 per cent of GNP in Saudi Arabia, 45 per cent of the United Arab Emirates and 33 per cent in each of Tunisia and Algeria.

Again, the oil revenues are placed mostly in the Western hemisphere, especially in the U.S. (17 per cent) and Britain (14 per cent), while 40 per cent is in other European countries, 28 per cent in some other countries, and rest is distributed among various financial centres in other countries. So the best way to maintain

Arab cohesion and cooperation is by implementing a system in which Arab income is mostly invested in Arab countries. By so doing the benefit will be for all Arabs.

It goes without saying that the previous methods of Arab economic cooperation, such as the establishment of a few lending funds by some oil-rich countries to grant loans to other less privileged states, were of little benefit to Arabs. So, many of us were disenchanted with their achievements as they were no more than symbolic devices which proved to be worthless and of little value in many occasions.

In the proposed new era, one could imagine a pan-Arab order, by which, among other arrangements, most of Arab revenue is channelled and invested in the many feasible and worthwhile Arab projects. The mechanism for operating such an arrangement could easily be worked out. The important thing here is to undertake to implement the idea as soon as possible. Again, we, not the others, should think of our future first. That is because we are the best judge of our potential and our limitations. After all it is the Arab proverb that preaches: "Better do it yourself."

The Arab countries have so far depended to a large extent on the rest of the world. They import 62 per cent of the production facilities and 52 per cent of their food needs, while their livestock production is only 1.5 per cent of the world's. This fact shows the dire need to implement plans for the purpose of achieving Arab food security and to fight malnutrition suffered by some poor Arabs by using some of the surplus funds for invest-

جordan Times

Arab American leader to Arabs: Take the offensive on the peace front

From Rania Atalla
in Washington

THE recent indication by Washington that the U.S. is willing to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of "land for peace" ought to induce Arab countries into taking a lead and presenting Israel with a "comprehensive package" of peace it would find difficult to refuse. Such is the thinking of a leading Arab American figure and a close observer of American foreign policy, Jim Zogby.

As executive director of the Washington-based Arab American Institute, Zogby has urged Arab leaders to elaborate on the statement made last week by U.S. President George Bush which called for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute on the basis of land for peace. But there are no signs the idea has taken off. "These are still talks," he says. His analysis comes as part of an exchange of ideas with policymakers in Washington.

As envisioned by Zogby, such a comprehensive peace package would have to offer Arab recognition of Israel and guarantee its security, while setting in motion, as a precondition, the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories. Incentives for Israel would have to be withheld until an actual arrangement for withdrawal made.

"Israel has to agree to be here in the region, otherwise (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir would be the odd man out," Zogby says. "That is how he has behaved so far" and in this context, Zogby points out, any separate peace between Israel and an Arab state would amount to a reward for Shamir.

Zogby faults the Bush administration for having allowed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to become the champion of the downtrodden Arabs and linking the solution to Israel's occupation of Palestinian land with Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"The U.S. should have stolen the (Palestine) issue from him, denied him the credibility, strengthened respect for the rule of law and resolved both problems (the Kuwaiti and Palestinian)," he says.

"Had the U.S. done that, Saddam Hussein would have withdrawn back down to scale instead of becoming a giant."

PLO

What of suggestions for the need for an alternative leadership to the PLO and attempts to create a substitute to the organisation? Zogby is quick to point out that the PLO means more than just an organisation, or merely a political leadership.

"It is a representation of national aspirations," he says, adding that the Palestinian community itself will have to resolve the "internal discussion" on whether or not to project an alternative leadership to the organisation.

JORDAN

In Zogby's view, Jordan was a victim of the confrontation in the Gulf. Jordan's physical positioning and the psychological disposition of its people have placed it in a precarious position, he says. "Public reaction to the Gulf crisis in Jordan

"There is still a constituent

reducing their efforts to confront the challenges from the enemies of Iraq... and rally behind the holy warrior Saddam Hussein."

Ali Al Adib, politburo member of the Shi'ite Muslim Dawa said the conferees would also discuss "creating an Iraqi parliament-in-exile and government-in-exile."

Turkish President Turgut Ozal revealed Monday that Turkish officials held unprecedented talks with Kurdish rebel leaders last

Friday.

The dailies did not specifically mention the insurrection, but said that the United States, Britain and Israel were plotting to "topple the national and patriotic government... of the leader, President Saddam Hussein."

The dailies reported that more than 300 opposition leaders from 23 factions, including communists, Shi'ite fundamentalists, Arab nationalists and liberals, were gathered in Beirut.

Al Thawra said in an editorial: "They want to bring down the government and replace it with stooges who receive their instructions from foreign ambassadors."

Kurdish officials claimed the PUK and their allies, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, have seized large areas of the northern provinces and are poised to attack the oil centre of Kirkuk, 160 kilometres north of Baghdad.

The Kurds have battled for years seeking autonomy for their mountainous area.

The factions meeting in Beirut are tackling the questions of whether to ask for foreign support and what kind of future government an Iraq should have, conference sources said.

Opposition figure Jalal Talabani said they had agreed on a "democratic, federal Iraq" in a country where the Kurdish minority has long sought autonomy in the north and Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalists want an

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Senna wins U.S. Grand Prix

PHOENIX (AP) — A new car, a new engine and the same motivated driver added up to another dominating victory for Ayrton Senna in the season-opening U.S. Grand Prix.

Senna's latest model McLaren race car, powered by Honda's new V12 racing engine, picked up where the old McLaren-Honda V10 left off last year, with the brilliant Brazilian leading from start to finish.

"The car is good. The performance speaks for itself," Senna said quietly. "It's the first time we were out for distance on full (gas) tanks and it was a great performance. The car proved reliable and the engine was good, too."

The victory, which tied Senna with retired Jackie Stewart for second on the Formula One career victory list with 27 — behind only Frenchman Alain Prost's 44 — prepared to be a cakewalk for the defending race and series champion.

Senna, who built leads of up to 44 seconds before allowing the second-place Ferrari of Prost to cut into that margin late in the

race, did have some difficulties. "I had small problems only with the gearbox and the balance of the car," he said. "But every year we fight with it (the gearbox), and the balance problem is because we have a new car."

Prost, Senna's former teammate and bitter rival, had a problem with his clutch. He finished 16.322 seconds behind the race, scheduled to run 82 laps, was cut by one because of Formula One's two-hour time limit.

The Frenchman had a simple answer for Senna's dominance: "The problem was we were not fast enough."

Senna, who will be 31 on March 21, earned his 15th wire-to-wire victory, one of several records he holds. The late Jim Clark won 13 times from start to finish.

Senna, who started from the pole for a record 53rd time, was never challenged in the race on the newly configured 2.312-mile (3.720-kilometre) circuit.

With Senna so dominant, the only real battle was for second place. But the Williams of Riccar-

do Patrese of Italy and the Ferrari of Jean Alesi of France both went out of the race after making good runs at the run-up spot.

Patrese was running second on lap 50 when he spun to a stop on the circuit. As he sat in the car attempting to get it restarted, the Benetton-Ford of Roberto Moreno of Brazil sliced through the front of the Williams, scattering debris around the course and spinning Moreno out of the race.

Only nine cars were running at the end.

Nigel Mansell of England, making his first start for Williams, was running third on lap 35 when he began to slow with a gearbox problem. He stopped on the next lap, then got out of the cockpit and pushed the car to a safe position behind the concrete barriers lining the circuit.

Moments later, on lap 37, Gerhard Berger of Austria, Senna's McLaren teammate, parked his car after experiencing problems with the fuel pressure. Berger was running fifth when he stopped.

The race, run here for the third time, continued to struggle for support with a crowd estimated at only about 18,500 turning out in warm, partly cloudy weather.

Bubka and Conway seek new world marks

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — A 20-foot pole vault... and an 8-foot indoor high jump... both appear possible within the near future.

That's after pole vaulters Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union and high jumper Hollis Conway of the United States made gallant efforts at those rarified heights in the World Indoor Championships that ended Sunday.

Bubka, winner of the pole vault at 6.00 metres said he thought a 6.10-metre jump would be possible this year.

Conway, winner of the high jump with an American indoor record of 2.40 metres, said he thought he will eventually reach 2.44 metres. But that will have to wait until the outdoor season.

Only one high jumper, Javier Sotomayor of Cuba, has scored as high as 2.44 metres, reaching that height at San Juan, Puerto Rico, on July 29, 1980.

"I knew it was going to be a good jump for me," Conway said after breaking his U.S. indoor record of 2.37 metres with the year's best jump, before missing three times at 2.44 metres.

"It even felt I could break that world (indoor) record" of 2.43 metres, set by Sotomayor at the 1989 World Indoor Championships at Budapest, Hungary.

"But if it was not today, it's going to be soon. I am very strong."

"My winter training has been very good. So my next goal is Tokyo (site of the World Out-

door Championships in August). That counts more than the world record within the near future."

"But I hope to get both."

Conway's bold shot at the world indoor record, plus world records by the German teams in the men's and women's 1,600-metre relays — the final three events Sunday — capped off a dramatic day in a blaze of glory.

Bubka's shot at the first 20-foot (6.10-metre) vault, indoors or outdoors, came during Saturday's final event, and captivated the crowd at the Seville Sports Palace.

Bubka, the world indoor record-holder at 6.08 metres and the world and the world outdoor record-holder at 6.06, got the fans involved in his try at the remarkable height by swinging his right hand toward the crowd, urging them to applaud. They responded in kind.

Although Bubka did not clear 6.10 metres, he said it was possible soon, probably this year."

He said he had cleared that height at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, while training for the 1988 Olympics.

"I have to set my mind on it gradually," he said when asked about repeating the feat in competition.

Overall, five world records were broken during the three-day World Championships, one world record was tied, and five other meet records were set.

Courier wins Champions Cup tennis tournament

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — American Jim Courier powered his way to a 4-6 6-3 4-6 6-3 7-6 upset of Guy Forget of France in a three-hour 30-minute final Sunday in the \$1 million Championships Cup tennis tournament.

The 20-year-old Courier, ranked 26th in the world, won \$125,000 as he belted 12 aces in continuing his string of upsets by toppling the third seed.

Courier, seeded 16th, surprised three players ranked in the world's top 10 here, including countryman Andre Agassi, Emilio Sanchez of Spain and Forget.

Who beat world number one Stefan Edberg of Sweden in the semifinals.

"There's no question, it's my best week," said Courier. "All the top players except Ivan Lendl who were healthy were here. To win it is, and this might sound like a cliché, a big honour."

Courier and Forget traded shots like boxers trading punches for five sets to push the match to a dramatic five-set tiebreak, which Courier won on his third match point when Forget stabbed a forehand volley long.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

READING THOSE CARDS

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 9 2
♦ 10 8 4
♦ A Q 6 2
♦ A 6 4

WEST
♦ 8 6 3
♦ A 9 7 5
♦ K 8 5 4
♦ 10 9 5 2

EAST
♦ K 10 5
♦ 9 7 5
♦ 10 3
♦ K Q J 8 7

SOUTH
♦ A 7 4
♦ K Q J 6 3 2
♦ 3 9 7
♦ 3

The bidding:
West: North: East: South:
Pass 1 NT Pass 1 NT
Pass 1 NT Pass 4
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♦

Can you remember how good a player you were two years after taking up the game? Our experience borders on acute embarrassment. The second-youngest player at the European Junior Championship was 20-year-old David Fohrer of Israel, who learned the game in 1988. We are impressed with how Fohrer, as declarer, handled this deal as declarer from the Israeli-Turkey encounter.

The auction was routine—if you consider North's hand to be worth a vulnerable opening bid. However, if North passes and South opens, the same contract is likely to result.

Sabatini beats Graf in Florida tennis tournament

BOCA RATON, Florida (Agence France Presse) — Gabriela Sabatini put all elements of her now well-rounded game together to beat top-seeded Steffi Graf 6-4 7-6 Sunday to repeat as champion of the \$500,000 Virginia Slims of Florida Women's Tennis Tournament.

"I think I have everything," said Sabatini, who earned \$100,000 for her victory. "I've started to use everything and I feel very comfortable with many shots.

Graf, who will lose her number one ranking Monday to Monica Seles after a reign of more than three years, did not have control of her vaunted forehand as once again she fell to the Florida jinx which seems to doom her against Sabatini.

The fourth-ranked Argentine, who trails 20-7 in their career match-up, has beaten Graf all four times they have played in Florida.

"It's disappointing," said Graf, who settled for \$40,000. "I played, so well the other days, but I wasn't able to do it today. I wish I could've, but she played well."

Sabatini has gone from being just a force from the baseline to a player who can dominate all over the court.

Not long ago it was something special to see Sabatini at the net. Since gaining confidence with her volley Sabatini's game has soared and brought her first Grand Slam title at last year's U.S. Open.

Against Graf, the Argentine won 23 of 36 points she contested at the net.

"I'm the more aggressive on court," Sabatini said when asked to explain her recent success against Graf. "I'm attacked more. Probably I'm the more complete player."

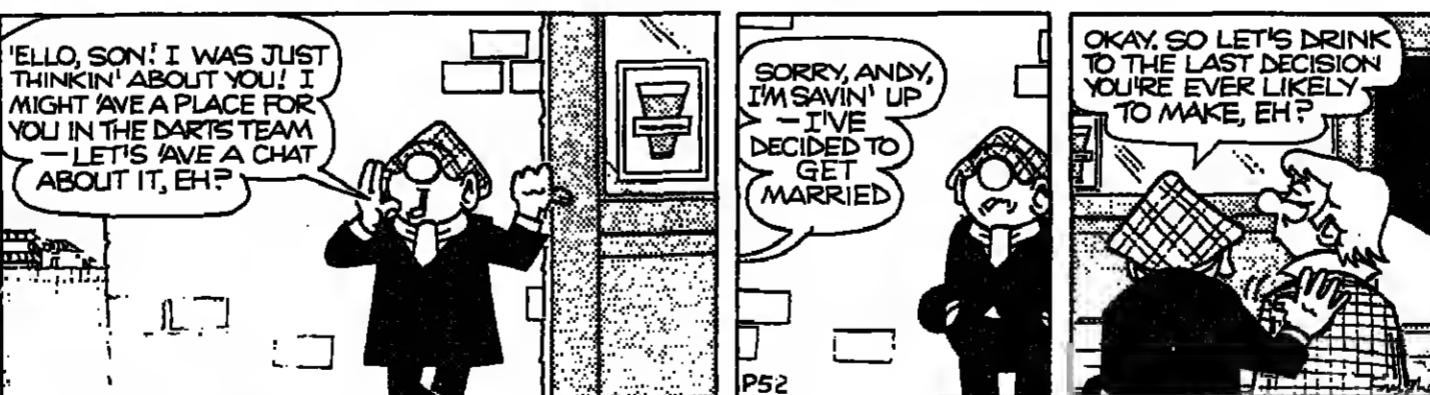
"It was just a place for Yannick," said Graf, referring to her recent success against Graf.

Graf, 21, will be ranked no. 2 this week, but Sabatini, 20, is gaining on her.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Sacchi rules Milan out of Italian title race

Reuters

AC MILAN coach Arrigo Sacchi ruled his side out of the Italian title race after their 2-0 defeat by Sampdoria in Genoa Sunday, a result which leaves joint leaders Sampdoria and Internazionale three today points clear of Milan.

"It's clear that today we have been knocked out of the championship race," said Sacchi, after a defeat which followed hard on the heels of Milan's disappointing home draw with Olympique Marseille in a European Cup quarter-final first leg.

"We've been the best side for a long time. And that has cost us a lot of effort and sacrifices and it's difficult to always maintain the very highest standards."

"At the moment, we're just not there (at those high levels) anymore," added Sacchi, whose team have won the European Cup for the last two seasons.

In Milan, Internazionale scored a predictable win over a Juventus side who, despite a convincing win against FC Liege in a midweek Cup Winners' Cup tie, could not live with Inter.

For Juventus, whose World Cup hero "Toto" Schillaci came on as a second half substitute, this third defeat in four League games puts them right out of the championship picture but does not jeopardise the immediate future of coach Gigi Mafredi.

European Soccer

"Our coach will respect his contract (valid to the end of this season) with Juventus just like Juventus will respect their contract with him," Juventus President Vittorio Chiusano said.

One coach whose contract will not be respected is Romanian Mircea Lucescu who was sacked by Pisa hours after his side had lost a vital relegation battle, 2-1 to Cagliari.

The Spanish press roared "Cyclone Barcelona" and "Barcelona, unstoppable," after the first division leaders walloped Athletic Bilbao 6-0, the basque side's heaviest home defeat since 1950.

Meanwhile Real Madrid's fans, now accustomed to defeat, did not have an eyelid when the defending league champions lost 3-2 at home to Real Sociedad, the visitors' first win at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in 47 matches.

Watching the debacle was John Toshack, the Welshman sacked by Real Madrid earlier this season, who this summer will return for his second spell as Sociedad coach.

In Germany, Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes defeated his team's 3-0 win at midtable VFB Stuttgart Saturday as their best performance for three years.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 12, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day to look straight at how far you have progressed in material matters and to make sure you are handling them on a strictly moral basis.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You want some pleasant moments now and there is no reason why you should not have them so long as you live the golden rule and do not burst other.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is the time to make sure that you do open up some improved conditions in your life by meditating and concentrating upon lofty principles.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the time to be sure you think in terms of what you can do for your good friends as well as what they can do for you and much of value results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A day to first engage in the services of your choice after which you can get off with usual contacts to see and be with close companions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have very prophetic insight now into the best manner in which to get along with devoted allies and in a very conscientious fashion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A day to find out what the stars impel, "What you make of your life is largely up to you."

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

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HARRIS 2-15



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AVVLE

WRONC

MIENER

LEMDEY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FUNNY PUPPY BEETLE GOODLY

Answer: She wore a bikini because she enjoyed getting this—"OUT IN THE OPEN!"

THE Daily Crossword

Israel devalues shekel

TEL AVIV (R) — The Bank of Israel devalued the shekel Monday by 6.25 per cent to 2.1920 shekels against the U.S. dollar, using the calculation of the International Monetary Fund.

The cut followed Sunday's 5.66 per cent reduction in the shekel's value against a dollar-dominated basket of foreign currencies.

On Friday the shekel stood at 2.055 shekels to one dollar. The central bank does not set new foreign currency rates on Sunday.

The Bank of Israel allows the shekel to fluctuate around a median basket rate by up to five per cent in either direction.

On Sunday it set a new median rate of 2.5522 shekels to one unit of the dollar-dominated basket, down from the 2.4077 shekel rate fixed at the last formal devaluation in September 1990.

Monday's new shekel rate against the dollar was set at the end of the daily electronic trade between the central bank and the commercial banks.

Mondays new shekel rate against the dollar was set at the end of the daily electronic trade between the central bank and the commercial banks.

Spain said prepared to forgive at least 33% of Egypt's debt

MADRID (AP) — Spain is prepared to forgive at least a third of Egypt's \$2.3 billion pesos (\$546.8 million) debt in recognition of Cairo's support of the allied coalition in the Gulf war against Iraq, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Spain's leading daily *El País* said U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady both requested the gesture from Madrid. Washington forgave Egypt's \$7 billion debt last fall.

El País said that although Spain may inform the Egyptian authorities of the debt forgiveness, an official announcement would probably not be made until the next meeting of the Paris Club of creditor nations.

Egypt is Spain's single largest debtor. The bulk of the debt consists of outstanding payments for purchases of military equipment.

Algeria reports huge discovery of zinc ore

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has discovered a huge zinc ore deposit that could yield 1.2 million tonnes a year of the metal, the official news agency APS reported Monday. The agency said the lode was found at Ait Larbi near Bejaia, 100 kilometres east of Algiers. Preliminary tests showed the ore assayed at between 6.5 and 7.0 per cent metal which "would make it possible to extract on less than 1.2 million tonnes of metal a year."

Prospecting in the volcanic Oued Amizour mountain range began in 1974 but it was not until late last year that rich ore lodes were discovered. APS said reserves made it one of the biggest deposits in Africa. "It goes without saying that if absolutely confirmed by technical studies the project will have immeasurable effect on regional and national levels."

Syria to get \$100m loan from Japan

TOKYO (R) — Japan will extend a yen commodity loan worth \$100 million to Syria, its first such government aid programme for Damascus since 1987, a foreign ministry spokesman said Monday.

The Japanese government also plans to extend another \$500 million to Syria soon for a thermal power plant, the ministry spokesman said.

Yen commodity loans can be used to buy products from any foreign country. The interest rate on this loan runs at 2.9 per cent per year and payment is to be made in 25 years including a seven-year grace period.

Japan's aid to Syria was suspended in 1987 because of unpaid loans.

Aid to Syria comes on top of a \$2 billion package Japan earmarked for some of Iraq's neighbours which have been suffering from the United Nations-sanctioned embargo during the Gulf crisis.

Recipients of that fund included Turkey and Jordan, each of which got \$700 million, and Egypt, which got \$600 million.

U.S., allies begin talks on financial help to Jordan, Egypt and Turkey

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The United States and 26 other wealthy countries met Monday to discuss funding for Iraq's poor neighbours as the glow of victory in the Gulf war fades and the economic reckoning begins.

With the war over, the region faces severe economic instability which could undermine efforts to foster peace and long-term security.

The meeting in Luxembourg

was called under the auspices of the Gulf Crisis Financial Coordination Group, set up by Washington last year to channel aid to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey — the so-called frontline states worst affected by the trade and oil embargo against Iraq.

"There is more work for this

group to do... I'm not here to push any particular proposal but we do have some thoughts," Robert Kiernan, U.S. under-secretary of state for political affairs, told reporters as he arrived for the meeting.

Western countries, Japan, South Korea and four of the Gulf oil states will listen to a World Bank plan for the region and then try to determine where the cash would come from.

Neither U.S. nor Luxembourg officials could say whether help for countries other than Egypt, Jordan and Turkey was likely to aid.

The group has already promised \$10.3 billion aid, funded predominantly by the rich Gulf states, the European Com-

munity and Japan.

The U.S. was excused on the grounds that it had borne the bulk of military burden of driving Iraq out of Kuwait.

But other countries, particularly those which have paid large sums towards the war effort, may question this.

Washington has appeared to step back from Secretary of State James Baker's plan for a Middle

East development bank. Several U.S. lawmakers have made it clear they would not welcome such a bank if they had to contribute to it.

The Saudis, who might also be expected to put up much of the bank's funds, have been unenthusiastic, U.S. analysts say.

A World Bank-administered aid package would have the advantage of being apolitical, funding countries according to need rather than affiliation during the war.

The Gulf states have put up \$6.1 billion of the Gulf crisis group's \$10.3 billion funds so far. The European Community and Japan have pledged \$2 billion each with other countries chipping in the remaining \$200 million.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the other four rich Gulf states are already expected to bankroll a predominantly Egyptian and Syrian peacekeeping force for the region under an Arab security plan agreed in Damascus last week.

Dollar settles back in Europe after central banks stifle surge

LONDON (R) — The dollar settled back from its early surge by Europe's midsession Monday, after Germany's Bundesbank led 10 other European central banks in selling the U.S. currency.

Shares on major European markets were mostly lower, except in London, as traders cashed in their profits from gains last week.

Crude oil prices more than 65 cents a barrel weaker due to fears that a ministerial-level meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Geneva would not reach a deal

limiting production.

The dollar was quoted at 1.5715 marks and 137.58 yen at 1245 GMT, down from 1.5822 marks and 138.25 yen in early trading.

But despite repeated central bank selling it was still above its London close Friday of 1.5650 marks and 136.30 yen.

The Bundesbank confirmed it sold dollars in mid-morning trading, in concerted action with other central banks.

Currency dealers said a first intervention took place as the dollar was trading at about 1.5830

marks and it was followed up rapidly by further moves at 1.5800, 1.5730 and 1.5745 marks.

"They really mean business," said one trader in Frankfurt. The volume of dollars sold for marks had been heavy, he added.

Central banks of Austria, Spain, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Portugal, Belgium, Britain and Switzerland joined in, officials and dealers said. The Bank of England was reported to have sold dollars for yen on behalf of the Bank of Japan.

"Probably the rate of apprecia-

tion was as much a worry to them as anything else," said Jeremy Hawkins, senior economist at Bank of America in London.

Traders said the dollar's surge had been strong demand from businesses after the end of the Gulf war and buying by traders who had expected the U.S. currency to fall, and were trying to cover themselves.

Its strength took many traders by surprise, following the announcement Friday of employment data for February which showed weakness in the U.S. economy.

Switzerland lifts boycott, frees assets of Kuwait

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has lifted its economic boycott against Kuwait and unblocked Kuwaiti assets frozen when Iraqi troops overran the emirate in August.

The Swiss foreign minister said Monday the purpose of the oil boycott had been to prevent Iraq from drawing economic benefits from its occupation of Kuwait.

"When Kuwait was freed on Feb. 27, 1991, this reason disappeared," the ministry said.

The finance ministry said Berne would also allow the Kuwaiti government complete control over its assets held in Switzerland since there was no longer any danger they could fall into Iraqi hands.

The decision to join international sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait in August marked an unprecedented departure from traditional Swiss foreign policy of neutrality.

"We have not touched price yet. We have not yet touched the cut in production," OPEC Secretary-General Sabotra told a news briefing after the talks adjourned for a few hours.

Soviet air industry to focus on civilian planes

ATHENS (R) — Former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, a fiery Socialist who led Greece for eight years, went on trial Monday charged with accepting stolen money and bribes in the country's biggest financial scandal this century.

Defiant to the end, Papandreou refused to appear before the special 13-judge court set up by parliament in 1989 to try five former Socialist ministers over a bank embezzlement scandal.

He will be tried in absentia and faces a possible sentence of life in prison if convicted. The trial is expected to last three to four months.

Three other former Socialist ministers did appear in court — Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister Agamenon Koutsoyorgas, Public Order Minister George Petros and Finance Minister Dimitris Tsivolas.

Former Economy Minister Panayiotis Roumeliotis, the fifth accused, was separated from the others because he has immunity

from prosecution as a European Parliament deputy. Proceedings are under way to lift his immunity.

The accused are charged with crimes including taking bribes, accepting stolen money and breaching public faith in carrying out their duties.

Police ringed the Supreme Court in central Athens to guard against guerrilla attacks — Petros narrowly survived a car bomb attack in 1989 — and to hold back an angry crowd of 1,000 Socialist supporters denouncing the trial as a "political farce."

"Shame, shame, shame,"

chanted the crowd, which stopped traffic on Alexander Avenue outside the courthouse for several hours. "Papandreou is innocent. The trial is a joke."

Papandreou denies any criminal wrongdoing and maintains the embezzlement scandal at the private Bank of Crete in 1988 could have happened under any government.

"Soviet plane factories are undergoing conversion into the production of civilian aircraft due to the reduction of production of military aircraft," Voinov said before Tuesday's opening of the second aviation and defence air show in Manila.

"Our participation in the air show here is an opportunity to be able to market and sell our aircraft in Asia and elsewhere," Voinov said.

The Soviets have sent the largest delegation among 80 companies from 20 countries to the air show, which is scheduled to be opened by Philippine President Corazon Aquino Tuesday morning.

The performance of Soviet-made planes used by the Iraqis in the Gulf war would not affect plans to expand sales of civilian planes on the world market, Voinov said.

"There are problems, but all these problems can be solved," added Voinov, who is head of the exhibition department of Aviaexport in Moscow. He did not elaborate.

Officials said Hashimoto's remarks represented general con-

OPEC oil policy talks make a tense start

GENEVA (R) — Talks between oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries on OPEC policy after the Gulf war made a tense and hesitant start Monday, marred by ill-feeling between members.

"The committee atmosphere is not very easy," commented Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh minutes before the opening session of the ministerial monitoring committee.

"It was a tense atmosphere but there were no heated exchanges between the ministers," an Arab delegate, who attended the talks, later confirmed.

The early session did not touch upon the key issue of whether OPEC should cut production to get into line with a projected fall in demand during the coming warmer months in the northern hemisphere.

"We have not touched price yet. We have not yet touched the cut in production," OPEC Secretary-General Sabotra told a news briefing after the talks adjourned for a few hours.

Japan wants to avoid becoming silent banker in post-war Gulf

TOKYO (R) — Japan, worried it will be denied a significant role in establishing the postwar order in the Middle East, is stepping up efforts to avoid the image of silent banker.

"We're not saying we are reluctant to give aid. Rather, we are willing to give as much aid as possible. But to do so, we need to have a fair say in policy-making," said another government official.

The officials acknowledge Tokyo has yet to come up with a

clear-cut strategy to secure its position in forthcoming diplomatic haggling some suggest that Tokyo use existing multilateral agencies, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as forums through which to wield its influence.

Japan normally insists that its aid money be channelled through the IMF and the World Bank.

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Frequency	Flight No.	Dep. Arr.	Class
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Class: C-Executive Y-Economy Class

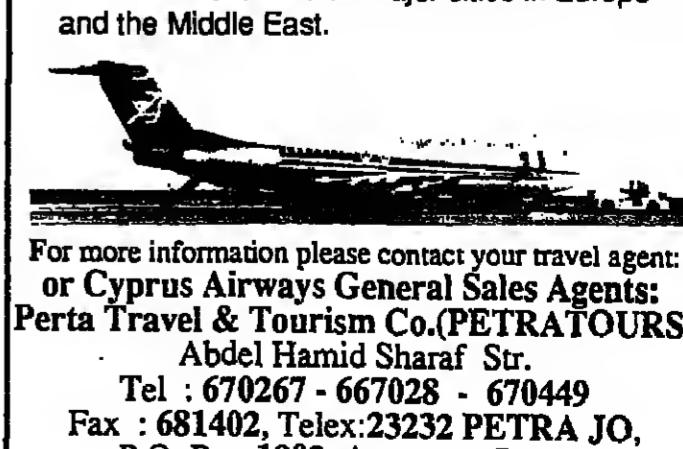
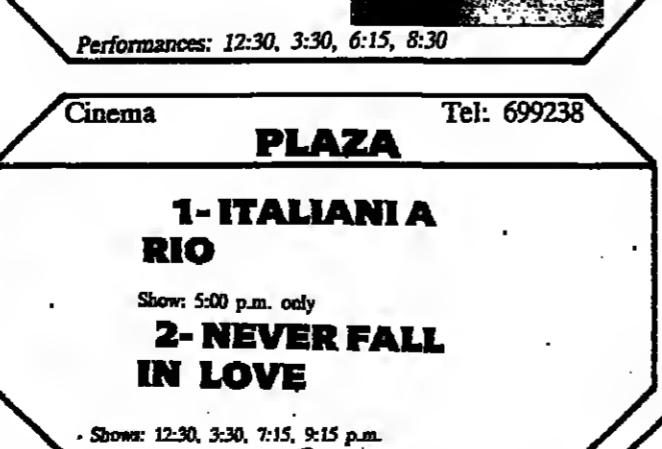
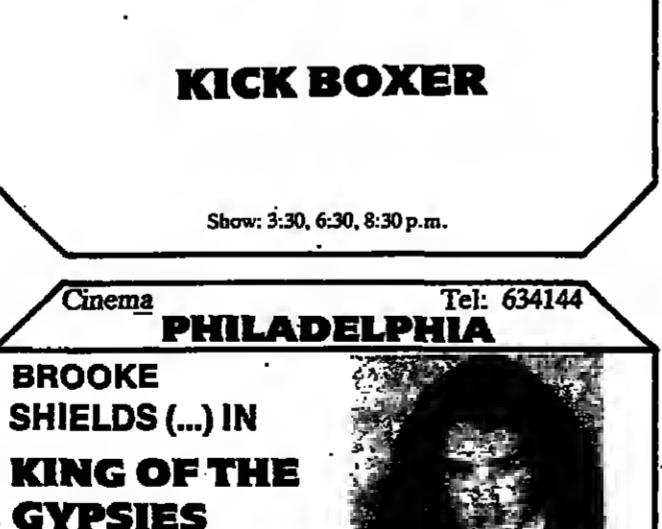
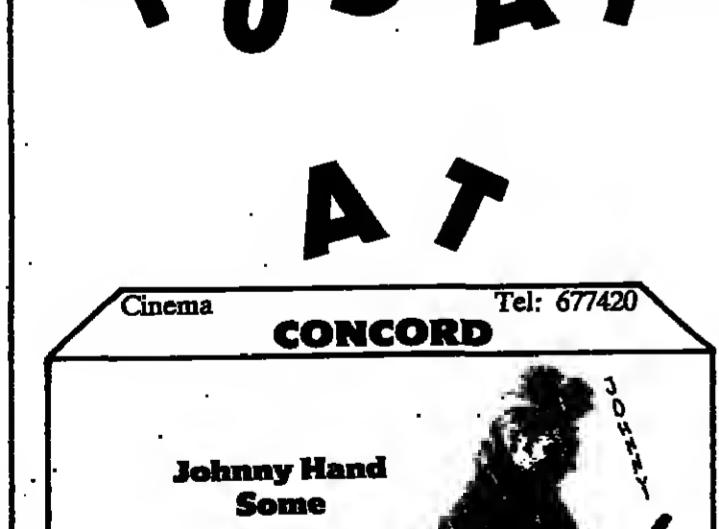
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Soviet parliament warns rebel republics not to block union vote

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament, in a clear warning to six rebel republics, said Monday that any attempt to stop people voting in a referendum on the country's future would be illegal.

It passed a resolution ordering "all necessary measures" to ensure that every Soviet citizen had the chance to vote in next Sunday's ballot.

Georgia, Armenia, Moldova and the breakaway Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have all refused to organise the vote on whether to preserve the Soviet Union as a "renewed federation of equal sovereign republics".

"The prosecutor's office and the Interior Ministry of the USSR have to secure strict observation of law and order, to take all necessary measures so that on March 17 each citizen has a real possibility to implement his constitutional right," the parliament resolution said.

"Any infringement of the rights of a citizen of the USSR to take part in the referendum, any limitations of this right contradict the constitution, are illegal and are to be stopped."

The resolution did not say how voting was to be enforced.

The parliament also resolved to send deputies to each of the rebel republics and the radical str-

gholds of Moscow and Leningrad "to monitor the course of the referendum and render assistance to commissions organising referendums."

This apparently referred to attempts by pro-Moscow groups and ethnic minorities within the six boycotting republics to organise the vote on their own.

The referendum is designed to underpin a union treaty which Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev hopes will hold the 15 republics together in a new, looser federation and prevent a further slide towards economic chaos and civil war.

The political temperature has risen in the run-up to the vote as central authorities strongly for a "yes" vote and radicals and nationalists step up their campaigns for a "no".

Meanwhile, vast crowds poured on to the streets of Soviet cities to back populist politician Boris Yeltsin and call for the resignation of President Gorbachev, his arch-rival.

About 200,000 people turned out Sunday in Moscow, where demonstrators chanted "Gorbachev get out". Tens of thousands gathered in other cities to support Yeltsin, who is likely to face fresh censure in the national parliament.

The Moscow demonstrators lis-

tened to reformist politicians denounce next week's referendum on preserving the Soviet Union and the latest draft of a union treaty on new links between Moscow and the country's 15 republics.

Participants at Sunday's rally in Moscow accused the Communist Party of trying to perpetuate its hold on power with the referendum, which asks voters whether they favour keeping the country as a "union of sovereign equal republics."

"We are being asked: Do we or do not trust the leadership of the country?" Moscow's radical Mayor Gavril Popov told the crowd.

"No" roared back the demonstrators.

Local journalists said pro-Yeltsin rallies drew 70,000 in Leningrad and 50,000 in Sverdlovsk, his home town.

About 7,000 people gathered in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, and tens of thousands more in Lvov, in the western Ukraine, a hotbed of nationalism where authorities have organised an additional referendum next Sunday on secession.

Ukrainian coal miners voted Sunday on a proposal to launch an all-out strike to press for pay increases of up to 150 per cent — dismissed by authorities as excessive.

"It is very easy to heap guilt on us for the failures of perestroika and much more difficult to show the way out of these difficulties. It is not true that six years of perestroika were for nothing."

A journalist reporting from Moscow's jammed Manezh Square said some protesters were

calling for violence.

Conservative politicians interviewed on the programme openly questioned Yeltsin's integrity and one mentioned his alleged involvement in two scandals.

Participants at Sunday's rally in

Indian parliament passes interim budget

NEW DELHI (R) — India's fractious parliament stopped arguing enough Monday in rush through an interim budget and other essential business to pave the way for an early general election.

The fate of the budget, vital to tide India through economic crisis, was left hanging when Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar resigned last Wednesday, advising the president that an early election was the only way to resolve political chaos.

After days of intrigue aimed at staving off polls which few politicians really want, the fragmented Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) agreed to let vital business through without debate.

One party staged a brisk walkout to register protest at an extension of direct rule over Punjab. Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Janata Dal was the only party to demand elections for a new state assembly in the northern state which is racked by Sikh separatist violence.

But the interim budget was passed unanimously by voice vote, after Communist Party of India (Marxist) spokesman Somnath Chatterjee was allowed to state: "We will not oppose (it) although we have our reservations."

He was referring to the budget's modest proposals to cut farmers' subsidies and offer some shares in loss-making state-owned companies to private investors.

The political crisis has hampered India's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for at least \$2 billion in new loans. India, facing a foreign exchange crunch, borrowed \$1.79 billion from the IMF in January.

Businessmen saw the spending cuts and privatisation moves as tools for negotiations with the IMF, pending a regular budget.

President Ramaswamy Venkataraman's delay in announcing early polls has infuriated opposition parties. They accuse him of trying to give former Premier Gandhi time to form another government to stave off polls which Gandhi's Congress Party is unlikely to win.

But diplomats attributed Venkataraman's delay to the need to get approval for the budget and other urgent business.

The Lok Sabha adjourned until Tuesday. Politicians said they expected Venkataraman to come to parliament house later Monday for a mass meeting to discuss elections.

The interim budget, which makes no taxatio changes, was essential to keep revenue coming in for the first four months of the 1991/92 fiscal year, starting April 1.

Its objective is to cut the 1991/92 deficit to about 6.5 per cent of gross domestic product from 8.5 per cent in the current year. The 1991/92 budget deficit is tentatively estimated at 99.77 billion rupees (\$5.39 billion).

About 370 of the 515 current members of the Lok Sabha, split among half a dozen major parties after Congress lost power in inconclusive 1989 polls, attended the session.

The six-month extension of direct rule in Punjab from May was passed by 321 votes to four against after Janata Dal walked out.

ANC and Inkatha leaders held weekend talks to try and halt the fighting.

Police said two people in Alexandra were killed Monday — the man who was shot to death when the police patrol was attacked and another man who was hacked to death by members of a rival faction. The police vehicle was hit by one firebomb, but no officers were injured, police said.

Kereku did not benefit from election campaign, which has aided other African leaders who have faced contested elections.

He was forced to accept a caretaker government and prime minister a year ago after riots and strikes brought the country's economy to a standstill.

The president, Gen. Mathieu Kereku, has threatened to intervene if voting was marred by fraud or violence.

Kereku has been accused of conducting a violent campaign to instigate violence, keep voters away from the polls and create an excuse to hang on to power in this tiny, equatorial nation in West Africa.

Police said two people in Alexandra were killed Monday — the man who was shot to death when the police patrol was attacked and another man who was hacked to death by members of a rival faction. The police vehicle was hit by one firebomb, but no officers were injured, police said.

Fighting erupted in the township before dawn Saturday between Zulus tied to the conservative Inkatha Freedom Party and Xhosas and other blacks loyal to the African National Congress (ANC). The two groups oppose apartheid, but are divided by political and tribal differences.

ANC and Inkatha leaders held weekend talks to try and halt the fighting.

The prime minister, Niesophe Soglo, was among 12 candidates opposing Kereku.

Kereku has been accused of

conducting a violent campaign to

instigate violence, keep voters away from the polls and create an

excuse to hang on to power in this tiny, equatorial nation in West Africa.

Political observers said Kereku was likely to be defeated if the voting is fair, becoming the first president on the African continent deposited by the ballot box. However, no reliable public opinion polls were available. Final results were not expected before Thursday.

When he cast his vote, the gray-haired president sported a drab green uniform devoid of the gold ribbon, badges and other military trimmings of more powerful days.

International observers and local newspapers doubted that Kereku, 58, who describes himself as a chameleon, has convinced a sceptical electorate that he also would change his Marxist fact.

In a mock amphibious assault landing for reporters Sunday, the air filled with the sounds of explosions as South Korean Marines rushed ashore from amphibious assault vehicles.

There were no U.S. Marines in the beach landing this year.

North Korea has many times suspended talks with Seoul to demand Team Spirit be called off, claiming that it is a rehearsal for an invasion of the North. South Korea and the United States say the exercises are purely defensive, testing readiness to repel another North Korean invasion.

Besides Soglo, the other candidate favoured to do well is former International Labour Organisation chief Albert Tevocodje.

The United States, Canada, France and Germany sent observers to monitor the voting.

"All the party representatives I

said they were very satisfied with the way the voting went," said U.S. Sen. Rodney Ellis, who is among the four-member U.S. observer team.

The plan from the beginning this year was that Team Spirit would be smaller," a spokesman for Combined Forces Command (CFC) said.

"But no-one expected there

would be a (Gulf) war, so there

were some additional reductions," he said. "There was a

secondary, ripple effect."

Vance, who came from Okinawa, Japan, to participate in Team Spirit, said many of his colleagues were sent to the Gulf.

Rival Serbian groups demonstrate in Belgrade

BELGRADE (AP) — At least 15,000 anti-government protesters gathered in downtown Belgrade Monday in the third straight day of the fiercest anti-Communist demonstrations since World War II. Serbian officials were to hold emergency sessions Monday to consider the demands.

The normally recalcitrant Milosevic reportedly met some students, but refused to receive a student delegation sent by the protesters, student leaders said.

A group of 19 opposition deputies on hunger strike outside the Serbian parliament since Saturday said they would continue their fast until all the demands were met.

Student leaders said they would call an immediate boycott of classes at Belgrade University, the largest in Yugoslavia, if their demands are not met.

In an apparent attempt to defuse tension, only a handful of traffic policemen watched Monday's downtown protest. Special anti-riot units who fought a running battle with students on a nearby bridge overnight were withdrawn.

Student leaders said they would call an immediate boycott of classes at Belgrade University, the largest in Yugoslavia, if their demands are not met.

About 30,000 people, many bussed in from factories around the state, gathered near the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers at the rally called by Serbia's Socialist Party, the renamed Communists.

"We will prevail over those who want to destroy Serbia," said Dusko Matkovic, a deputy in the state legislature.

Hundreds of policemen wearing bullet-proof vests and carrying automatic rifles stood behind the podium as speakers blasted the opposition and the crowd clapped furiously.

The party has frequently staged similar rallies decked out with red flags and Milosevic portraits, often getting state-run enterprises to release employees from work.

At least 15,000 anti-Communist protesters gathered in downtown Belgrade to demand the sacking of Serbia's interior minister and the head of Belgrade TV, seen as a symbol of the Communist stranglehold on media in Yugoslavia's largest state.

The protesters, mostly students, also demanded the release of an estimated 170 people jailed over the past three days, and an end to censorship clamped on Belgrade's independent radio and TV.

Serbia's state legislature and

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military must finish the job of crushing a long-running Communist insurgency and eradicating a threat to the government from army rebels, President Corazon Aquino said Monday.

"The recent capture of leftist and rightist advocates of terror augurs well for long lasting peace in our land," she told officers at Manila's army headquarters in Camp Bonifacio.

Though the Communist and right-wing threats to the government have waned, "I expect the Armed Forces of the Philippines to be no less aggressive in successfully concluding the job it started," she said.

She told the officers "to be among the leaders of this campaign to vanquish the enemy and finally bring an end to the fighting."

Aquino has vowed to eradicate the Communist movement as a serious threat to the country by the end of her term in June, 1992.

Armed Forces Commander General Rodolfo Blazon said a series of arrests over the past three months had crippled the rebel Reform the Armed Forces Movement, headed by cashiered Colonel Gregorio Honasan who launched two coups against Aquino in 1987 and 1989.

Aquino has survived six right-wing coup attempts in the five years since she was swept to power in a popular revolt that ended 20 years of authoritarian rule.

She reminded the 64 officers graduating from a military training

course of their commitment to human rights and international law.

Since the euphoria of the "people power" revolt, popular expectations have become more realistic, she said.

"The euphoria has subsided. The threats have waned too," she said.

The Communist rebel New People's Army has fought for 22 years to establish a Marxist state in Philippines.

The Defence Department said in a report last month the number of guerrillas in the country had fallen to a six-year low, from a peak of 25,200 men in 1987 to about 17,000 in 1990.

Army chief Major-General Lisandro Abadilla last week accused some commanders of falsifying battlefield reports to try to show the government was doing better against the Communist guerrillas.

Officials now say the government will claim the right to expose the results to immediate family and prospective spouses. "We encourage them to tell their partners. But if they don't have any choice but to inform them ourselves," an official at the Health and Social Affairs Ministry said earlier this week. He did not elaborate.

Manglapus returned Monday from Washington where he held more than a week of talks with Vice President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and others on the future of the six bases.

Manglapus is demanding \$825 million annually in return for allowing the Americans to use the bases for seven more years.

NEW DELHI (R) — Calcutta intellectuals are poring over the script for City Of Joy and outdoor location shooting for the film has been temporarily halted, the chief minister of West Bengal says Jyoti Basu has said. The film version of Dominique Lapierre's novel about an American doctor and a Polish priest working in one of Calcutta's most desperate slums has hit a raw nerve among officials in Calcutta. They have objected to the film for months saying it portrays only the seedy side of the city of 13 million people, which seems with the poor and homeless. Although sometimes portrayed as a symbol of urban disaster, Calcutta is also regarded as a vibrant cultural centre. The film is directed by Roland Joffe, who made the Oscar-winning Cambodian war movie The Killing Fields and stars Patrick Swayze of Dirty Dancing fame. "We don't mind poverty being projected. But is that all Calcutta?" Basu told the South Asia Foreign Correspondents' Club. But he added: "At the moment we have no idea of stopping it." He said his government had also asked writers and film producers in the city to examine the script to see if it gives a fair portrayal of Calcutta, the capital of West Bengal. "We had very serious objections to the script and (Lapierre's) book. They say they have changed the script. So we have sent it to intellectuals to review," said Basu, leader of the Communist Party of India-Marxist which has ruled the state for 12 years.

COLUMN 10

Van Gogh painting sells for \$1.3m

CHICAGO (R) — An early painting by Vincent Van Gogh, Still Life With Flowers, fetched \$1.3 million from an anonymous bidder at an auction. The painting, which measures 13 by 16 inches (33 by 40 cm), depicts a vase containing bright red carnations and sprays of purple and lavender flowers against a dark background. It had been expected to fetch about \$1 million.

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